



**CITY OF TUCSON**

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CONTRACT AWARDED FOR DESIGN/BUILD OF EL PRESIDIO DE TUCSON**

One of Río Nuevo's "Great Places" is another step closer to becoming a reality. Last week, a team led by Means Design & Construction was awarded the contract to design and build El Presidio de Tucson.

Located in the center of Downtown Tucson at Church Avenue and Washington Street, this site was formerly part of an 11-acre fort built by the Spanish in the late 18th century. Visitors to El Presidio de Tucson will be able to envision what military life was like in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries as they explore the officers' quarters, climb the twenty-foot torreón (tower) which was designed to protect against enemy attacks, and enjoy reenactments of historic events.

The adobe triplex at 196 N. Court will provide exhibit space for artifacts from Tucson's Sonoran and territorial periods and opportunities to study Tucson's evolution from the 1780s through today.

The project team, comprised of local restoration experts Means Design & Building and The Architecture Company, anticipates groundbreaking could occur in early December with construction taking approximately 18 months. Cost of the project is \$2.2 million, to be paid by Río Nuevo Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

El Presidio de Tucson is a cornerstone for Río Nuevo's Tucson Origins Heritage Park. The interpretation of the Tucson Presidio in Downtown and reconstruction of the Mission San Agustín complex west of the Santa Cruz River will eventually incorporate historical venues, gardens, and archaeological sites.

Río Nuevo is the comprehensive Downtown revitalization project funded by the State of Arizona, the City of Tucson, and private enterprise. Its goals are to create a vibrant experience in Downtown Tucson for citizens and visitors through the development of new attractions, shops, restaurants, office space and housing, and to ultimately make Downtown Tucson into the "Heart of the City."

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